



NATIONAL  
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USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Month: January 2011**

**Number: 1**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 2011

Although snow fell in some areas of the state, weather conditions have been mostly cold and dry. Across the state, topsoil moisture was rated at 2% very short, 22% short, 71% adequate, and 5% surplus. Winter grazing is short due to the dry summer and fall. Grain and vegetable growers are preparing for their spring crops by taking soil samples and tobacco growers are finishing market preparations of their burley tobacco. Small grains look good but are slightly dull as a result of the cold winter and snow. Many farmers are attending educational conferences, equipment maintenance, securing 2011 inputs, feeding livestock and marketing grains.

### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	7	30	50	12
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	3	4	34	53	6

### FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	8	15
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	2	4
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	14	10

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**



**Virginia Tech**

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**Virginia State University**



**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 2, 2011

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	44	21	56	12	33	-1	0.91	3.54	-2.78	01.38	-1.68
Norfolk	42	27	50	19	35	-5	1.09	6.52	-0.07	03.64	0.24
Richmond	42	23	53	11	33	-3	1.48	5.67	-0.56	02.41	-0.67
Roanoke	45	26	60	20	36	0	0.61	2.74	-2.85	00.75	-2.02
Wash/Dulles	35	20	45	6	28	-4	1.38	3.35	-2.32	01.88	-0.76

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Trending dry so far this winter, surface water flows and storage below average.

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)**

We had approximately 8 inches of snowfall on 1/26/2011. Temperatures in the 30-40's. Still dry and cold. In need of more precipitation.

##### **ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)**

Weather conditions have been cold and dry. Livestock have been on full stored feed for a while and hay prices at local auctions have been strong for all types of hay. Recent high cattle prices have prompted a brisk movement of all cattle types to market.

#### WESTERN

##### **AUGUSTA (Jason Carter)**

Conditions remain generally dry in Augusta with winter grazing short due to dry summer and fall. Livestock marketings are high which suggest that livestock are being sold to offset feed shortages.

#### CENTRAL

##### **APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Tobacco farmers are finishing market preparation of their burley tobacco. Some land is being plowed for the upcoming year's tobacco crop as soil conditions permit. Much hay is being fed and some farmers now have to purchase hay.

##### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Livestock producers are feeding animals and keeping fences tight. Grain and vegetable farmers are taking soil samples for spring crops, ordering seed and fertilizer and attending winter meetings. Moisture conditions are adequate, but we have not received enough precipitation to recharge groundwater levels that were depleted during last summer's droughts. We need significantly more moisture before the next planting season.

#### CENTRAL (*continued*)

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Cold and dry and hard weather for man plant and beast. Degree growing days practically were nonexistent. Grass is weak from a dry fall with late rains so pastures are abused now. Cows are running seminars on how to consume more hay....mine have attended and learned. Have not seen any signs of topdressing on small grain at all. Usually see some in January, but this year no growth and frozen ground.

#### EASTERN

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Activities during the month included equipment maintenance, attending educational conferences, securing inputs for 2011, and marketing grain. Cold conditions greatly limited field work.

##### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

Rains fell this week and got things to about normal levels for January. Still not excessively wet. Folks have been able to do some activities in the field this winter when it wasn't frozen or snowy. Small grains look good. Still dull looking from winter cold and snow, but well developed for the most part. Barley is the same. Folks are busy making plans for spring and attending educational gatherings. Some lime being spread and some first nitrogen shots have gone out, but not too many.

#### SOUTHERN

##### **HENRY**

There has been 3 snow/sleet/rain showers that have moved through the county in January.

## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### **SOUTHEASTERN**

#### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Snow and ice has been hard on getting cattle fed and moved when needed. Some crops are showing cold damage from recent cold weather. Producers are feeding hay to livestock. They are performing maintenance on equipment for spring planting. Tobacco growers are getting greenhouses prepared for seeding soon. Many producers are attending winter meetings on various crop and livestock commodities.

#### **MECKLENBURG**

Colder than average temperatures in December and January have slowed small grain development. Producers are beginning to top-dress small grains.

#### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Small grain producers have applied some early season nitrogen and weed control measures. Producers are still watching the 2011 crop prices and trying to determine the crop mix for this year.

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Wheat planted is suffering from the cold and snow over the past two months. Pastures are in terrible condition and ranchers continue to supplement feeding with purchased hay and peanut vines.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Cold, wet weather persisted through January. Growers are attending meetings, getting shop work done, feeding livestock, and ordering supplies.



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